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SENATE MEMORIAL 10

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2008

INTRODUCED BY

Gerald P. Ortiz y Pino

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO ANALYZE THE
MEDICAID RENEW PILOT PROJECT, TO PROVIDE DATA REGARDING CASE
CLOSURES AND REINSTATEMENTS, TO REFRAIN FROM CASE CLOSURES
WITHOUT A FINDING OF INELIGIBILITY, TO ADDRESS PROBLEMS CAUSING
MEDICAID-ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES TO LOSE COVERAGE AND
TO REPORT ITS FINDINGS TO THE LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, federal law and regulation require that medicaid
recipients renew their medicaid applications at least once
every twelve months; and

WHEREAS, federal law and regulation prohibit a state from
closing a medicaid case unless the state has made a finding
that the family is no longer eligible; and

WHEREAS, since May 2004, the numbers of women, children
and low-income families enrolled in medicaid have been highly

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1 unstable and have decreased overall; and

2 WHEREAS, a study by the nonpartisan research company,
3 Mathematica policy research, incorporated, concluded that
4 seventy percent of children lose their medicaid coverage every
5 year; and

6 WHEREAS, continuity of care is important, especially for
7 children receiving preventive care and developmental
8 screenings; and

9 WHEREAS, in October 2007, the human services department
10 instituted a statewide pilot project called the "medicaid renew
11 pilot project", intended to simplify the renewal process for
12 both the caseworkers and for women, children and low-income
13 families; and

14 WHEREAS, under the medicaid renew pilot project, children,
15 women and low-income families who are receiving medicaid and
16 are not receiving benefits from other programs may now renew
17 their medicaid coverage without submitting a signed renewal
18 form and instead may renew their medicaid by telephone,
19 electronic mail, facsimile or regular mail; and

20 WHEREAS, the human services department has reported an
21 increase in the number of children enrolled in medicaid since
22 the implementation of the medicaid renew pilot project; and

23 WHEREAS, the medicaid renew pilot project remains only a
24 pilot project and has not been permanently adopted by the human
25 services department, pending an analysis of the success of the

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1 pilot project;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
3 OF NEW MEXICO that the human services department be requested
4 to conduct an analysis of the medicaid renew pilot project that
5 demonstrates how successful the pilot project has been,
6 including the number of women, children and low-income family
7 medicaid cases that are due to renew every month, the number of
8 renewal notices issued every month, the dates that those
9 renewal notices are issued, the number of families that respond
10 every month, the dates that those families respond, the number
11 of renewal applications that are processed every month and the
12 number of cases that are denied or renewed every month; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the human services department
14 be requested to provide data showing how many women, children
15 and low-income family medicaid cases are closed every month and
16 when, if ever, they are reinstated; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the human services department
18 be requested to refrain from terminating any medicaid case
19 unless and until the human services department has determined
20 one of the following to be true:

21 A. the participant is no longer financially
22 eligible;

23 B. the participant has received notification of
24 requirements for renewal and has failed to meet those
25 requirements within thirty days of notification; or

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